News release

Tough trip to work

18 February 2005

Commuters are facing the prospect of snow and ice for Monday's trip to work, Met Office forecasters warned today. The weekend will bring some snow to northern and eastern parts but more widespread snow and freezing temperatures look set to mark the start of the new working week. Eastern and southern areas of England will be hardest hit as winds from Siberia set in across the country.

Forecasters will be working closely with other agencies to minimise the impact of this severe weather across all transport networks. In particular, this winter has seen the launch of a new joint initiative with the Highways Agency (HA) with a team of dedicated forecasters located at the National Traffic Control Centre (NTCC) in Birmingham.

Dick Porter, the senior forecaster at the NTCC said: "the winter so far has been pretty quiet, but this situation brings the first big test of the new scheme. I will be working with my colleagues at the HA to provide the best possible weather advice for the highways teams to act upon".

The public are advised to be prepared and get updated advice from the Met Office web site or TV and radio forecasts.

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